REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action

dated September 6, 2007. Claims 1 to 17, 19 to 36 and 38 are in the application, of which

Claims 1 and 20 are still the only independent claims. Reconsideration and further

examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over

U.S. Patent 7,120,129 (Ayyagari) in view of U.S. Patent 7,152,099 (Arens), further in view

of U.S. Patent 6,667,690 (Durej), and still further in view of the IEEE standard 802.11

(1997 version). Dependent Claim 6[1] was rejected over this four-way combination of

references, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0082356

(Walton). Claims 20 to 36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ayyagari in

view of Arens and further in view of IEEE 802.11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the

rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention concerns configuration of a wireless network client so as to

use the same wireless access point as that currently being used by an already-configured

computing device. As one example, in the wireless local area network (WLAN) shown in

Figure 1, there are five wireless access points, namely wireless access points 4, 12, 13, and

15. An already-configured computing device 1 is currently using access point 4 for its

access to the WLAN. On the other hand, there is an unconfigured wireless network client

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[1]Actually, page 15 of the Office Action entered rejections of Claims 6, 17 and 19.
However, since Claims 17 and 19 were rejected as set forth above, it is thought that a
rejection of only Claim 6 was intended.

2, which is unconfigured in the sense that it does not know which of the multiple wireless access points with which it should access the WLAN. According to this example embodiment of the invention, the unconfigured wireless network client 2 is configured to use the same wireless access point 4 as that currently being used by the already-configured computing device 1.

The applied art has been studied, but even if combined as hypothesized in the Office Action, the resulting combination would still be unconcerned with the configuration of an unconfigured wireless network client so that it uses the same wireless access point as that currently being used by an already-configured computing device. Rather, as understood by the Applicant herein, if the applied art were combined in the way asserted in the Office Action, it would result in a situation where a wireless network client, which does not currently have an IP address assigned to it, is assigned an IP address. This view of the applied art is explained below.

Ayyagari describes the configuration of a zero configuration nomadic wireless and wired computing devices so that it "just works". See Ayyagari, abstract. As part of this configuration, the nomadic device is provided with the SSID (service set identifier) of the WLAN. The SSID is a unique identifier which is often referred to as a "network name", because it essentially is the name that identifies the WLAN. With this SSID, the nomadic device can access the WLAN. However, there is no determination of which of the various access points shown in Aegir's Figure 4 is used to access the WLAN.

Arens describes a system in which an unconfigured network device, which is already connected to the network, sends a request over the network for IP configuration

information. See Arens, abstract. Based on a response to this request, the unconfigured network device can derive IP configuration information. The system of Arens therefore allows an unconfigured device to determine its own IP address, but to do so, the Arens system must already be connected to the network. Moreover, in a wireless situation, it is believed that the Arens system would provide no hint as to which of multiple wireless access points should be used to access the WLAN.

Durej describes the configuration of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) network, but nothing in Durej is understood to disclose or to suggest anything concerning the configuration of an unconfigured wireless network client so as to use the same wireless access point as that currently being used by an already-configured computing device.

IEEE 802.11 describes the beacon that is sent by a wireless access point. Again, this seems unconcerned with the configuration of an unconfigured wireless network client so as to use the same wireless access point as that currently being used by an already-configured computing device.

Walton has been reviewed, but is not seen to add anything to the above-noted discussion of Aegir, Arens, Durej or the IEEE 802.11 standard.

Thus, even when viewed in the best possible light, a combination of the applied art would simply result in a situation where a wireless network client, which does not yet already have an IP address assigned to it, is assigned an IP address and which thereafter accesses the WLAN.
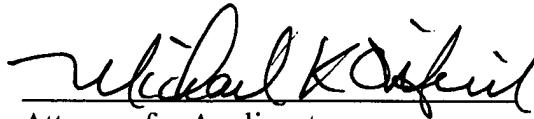
This, however, seems entirely different from the result achieved according to the invention, in which an unconfigured wireless network device is configured to use the same wireless access point as that currently being used by an already-configured computing device. It consequently follows that the applied art could not possibly disclose or suggest the specific nature of the steps set out in independent Claims 1 and 20. Claim 1 is directed to a method used in the unconfigured wireless network client, so as to configure it to use the same wireless access point as that currently being used in the already-configured computing device. Conversely, Claim 20 is directed to a method used by an already-configured computing device so as to configure an unconfigured wireless network client to access the same wireless access point used by it.

Moreover, in a further distinguishing feature of the invention from the applied art, the predetermined broadcast message from the already-configured computing device contains a network address of the already-configured computing device. For example, as explained at paragraph [0044] of the subject application, the predetermined broadcast message contains the network address of the already-configured computing device, in the form of its IP address. The announcement message returned from the unconfigured wireless network client, signifying the completion of its configuration, is sent to the same network address as that contained in the predetermined broadcast message. The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything of this nature.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein define subject matter that would not have been obvious from any permissible combination of the applied art, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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